

JOURNAL and PLAN

OF THE

Movements of the Main Army in the *Carnatic*,

UNDER

Major General JAMES STUART,

From the 13th to the 16th *February* 1783;

The dismantling of *Vandewasb* and *Carangooly*;

WITH

The Council of War and Correspondence relative to
that Measure.

JOHN A. B. 11 A

JOHN A. B. 11 A

JOHN A. B. 11 A

JOHN A. B. 11 A

JOHN A. B. 11 A

JOHN A. B. 11 A

JOHN A. B. 11 A

JOHN A. B. 11 A

* To his Excellency Lieutenant General Sir
EYRE COOTE, K. B. Commander in
Chief of his Majesty's and of the Ho-
nourable Company's Forces in India.

Camp, half-way between Vanderwaſh and Carangooly,
Feb. 16, 1783.

S I R,

I DID myself the honour, before leaving the Presi-
dency, to write to your Excellency in date 3d instant,
informing of the object of the present move of the Army,
to which I beg leave to refer †. I have, since then, re-
gularly and daily informed this Government of every
thing; all which I suppose will be as regularly transmitted
by them to the Governor General and Council of Bengal,
where you will see it: but in case I find, on my return,
that any time has been lost in this way, I shall take an-
other method to keep your Excellency well and duly
informed of every thing. Meanwhile, I cannot help an-
ticipating a little, by addressing the following *Journal*
for three days, to acquaint you of particulars which, I

* Copy of this Journal was transmitted to the Governor General and Coun-
cil of Bengal (by Captain Donald Campbell), April , 1783. J. S. 1784.

† See this Letter in the annexed Appendix, No. I.

trust, will give your Excellency some pleasure, in knowing that even the fight of *your* Army (for it may properly be so called) has put to flight the *combined* force of the French and Myforeans.

Camp near
Noodingul,
Feb. 13,
1783.

Late in the evening of yesterday, I gave out orders for the line to be under arms at three this morning; and it was *only at that hour* that I ordered the direction in which it was to move.

I had *separately* given instructions for the baggage that remained behind, to be put into Vandewash-Pettah, with a batallion of Sepoys, and a company or two into the fort.

Before day-break this morning the Army moved, and the enemy could not possibly guess our intentions until the head of the line had got well into the road leading * from Vandewash to Conjeveram. I had desired † *Captain Douglas*, Deputy Adjutant General, and my Aid de Camp *Lieutenant Campbell*, to observe from Vandewash-hill, whether there was any alteration in the enemy's position from that of yesterday. They remained as long as it was safe, and on the march reported to me, that they still were on the same ground behind the hills, in the direction as before mentioned, but without tents; and that they seemed to be moving irregularly, as if alarmed.

* See the Plan.

† Both these excellent Officers (to my infinite regret) were killed in the action June 13th, 1783, near Cuddalore.

J. S. 1784.

I got

I got further intelligence from heights as I moved on; and about half past nine, the advanced guard took possession of, and turned one of those high grounds, behind which we supposed the enemy were posted. The head of the line came in front of this rising ground, and we then clearly perceived an extent upwards of four miles, filled with the enemy's Army, with their guns moving off towards the river, in great confusion, but at too great a distance, and the ground too difficult, for my doing any more than throwing a few cannon shot among the hindmost of them. It was, beyond a doubt, *the whole force of the Mysorean Army*. Tippoo had, as I am informed, come with French Officers, and the reconnoitring party of yesterday. I do not know in what proportion the *French* were among those that run off.

This *alert* from us, will serve at least to shew to all the country powers, that even with the most powerful French connection, they dare not face our Army. Perhaps it may occasion differences with the French, and forward any measures for an honourable and advantageous peace with *Tippoo*, and all the *Indian powers*, so much recommended by our Honourable Employers, and so necessary for the state in general.

Early this morning we returned from the last ground, by the same road we went. The Army encamped here before

Camp N.E.
of Vandewash, Feb.
14, 1783.

before ten in the morning. I chose this situation as very high commanding ground, and equally ready to move to Carangooly or Outramalore, or in any direction the enemy may think of taking, if they recross the Arnee river with their guns; but I believe they will not again attempt this. My intelligence since their *flight* is, that most of their guns had passed the river before we came to our ground, and that the French were bodily with them; and last night, only part of their cavalry, with the French, remained on this side, but no guns.

Seeing that we pitched our tents *regularly* last night near Noodingul, they were in the utmost apprehension of a visit this morning. The situation of the ground between us and the enemy, and the bed of the Sy-arua river to cross, or what is *worse*, to halt, and then *return*, and *not* having three days rice with the whole Army; besides, the political complexion of affairs every where, were all reasons sufficient to forbid an attempt to pursue, and why I thought it best to return, to the present ground.

On our march back, we were not a little harassed by Rockets (five men and two horses have been reported to me killed, ten or twelve more wounded); I did every thing but hang one of the Rocket boys taken. He went through the *gallows-ceremony*, and was pardoned only at the last.

Our light guns knocked down some of their horse; and we took three horsemen, with their horses, on this ground.

The idea of giving the most public *palpable* proof that we are masters of the field, and can take our own time *deliberately* to do what we set about, has induced me, with only *one* day's rice (*for next day*), to halt on this ground to-morrow, with a view also the more effectually to demolish Vandewash.

We spring another mine there this evening, and then I shall blow up the outworks, and burn all the gates. I shall also load what carts I have, with the brass metal.

This halt will keep the enemy in uncertainty as to the *future* operations, and add at least *one more day* towards facilitating Brigadier General Mathews's and Colonel Lang's *offensive* operations elsewhere.

The *whole* combined force of our European and Indian enemies, so far as I am informed, *turned their backs yesterday*. All my reports, and those of Captain Flint's Harkarahs of this day, who were in the French camp, confirm this account. *Tippoo* has recrossed on this side, with the horse and Rocket boys, but the French, with the guns and infantry, are on the other side of the Arnee or Sy-arur river. Captain Campbell's battalion, with all the baggage, joined me from the Pettah of Vandewash
the

the moment we came to the ground here. Several fruitless attempts were made to cut in upon the baggage, and to get into the ruined fort, but the *view* of some Palmyra trees, in the embrasures where the guns were *lately*, kept them at awful distance.

I have, indirectly, accounts from Carangooly of a late date, that all was quiet; and I hope to be able to inform your Excellency upon my return to that place, that I have not lost a single bullock or bag of rice in the whole of this excursion.

The Army in general is in health: the Europeans, with his Majesty's 101st regiment, remarkably so. The battering guns have never retarded our march.

Camp half
way be-
tween Van-
dewash and
Carangoo-
ly, Feb. 16,
1783.

The Army came to their ground here in very good time.

In the evening of the 14th, when on the last ground, we sprung a mine in Vandewash, with good effect, and employed sufficient parties, during that night and the whole of the 15th, to finish the mines in the *counter-guard*, and in several of the projections of the fort, and in collecting combustibles near the gates, and smearing every bit of wood with pitch; so that before 6 P. M. of the 15th, every thing took effect, and the whole combustible matter within the fort was on fire, and continued
burning

burning the whole night. It is a perfect ruin, and scarce now even a post for small arms.

I had repeated intelligence of the enemy's horse keeping still on this side the Sy-arú river; and from the hill, their advanced picquets were seen behind a rising ground, not three miles from our right: but we took measures to prevent insult or surprise; and not one of them ventured, even into the Pettah or Fort, *from curiosity*, though our people were removed at some little distance from thence, after the mines were sprung.

The intelligence received the 14th and 15th, and confirmed by every person from the enemy's camp, agreed in general, that the French, to the number of 1500 of all sorts, with above thirty pieces of cannon, had crossed the Sy-arú, or Arnee river, on the 12th, with Monsieur Lallé, and a considerable part of the enemy's horse and rassa-lahs; the rest remained on the other side: That knowing our *small* provision of rice, their intention was either to get round, and oblige us to fight at a disadvantage, before returning to Carangooly, or at least to annoy us from the Outramalore side with cannon and horse on our march: That they *never* suspected our marching towards them till the head of our line was perceived about six in the morning of the 13th instant; every thing was then in the greatest confusion and alarm: and that after Lallé had made some movement in advance, he was recalled by

B.

Tippoo's

Tippoo's order, and all the French, with their guns, and the principal part of the Army, had recrossed the bed of the river in the forenoon, at the same place where they passed it (about seven miles East of Trivatore): That there were jealousies and differences in the French Army; and that *Tippoo* was diffident of them, and had given some orders to Lallé eventually, in case of the French attempting to come over to the English: That their tents and baggage had been sent for; and there seemed now to be no fixed plan of operations, *Tippoo's Councils being much distracted by the news from the other coast*; and seeing, as they did now, that *all* their combined force could not stand before *one* of our Armies.

In the march towards the enemy on the 13th, by the Conjeveram road, I was much indebted to Captain Pringle (the Captain of the guides), whom I trusted with the *secret*; the road he led through, had *formerly* been judged impassable for guns.

I do myself the honour to present to your Excellency a small Plan, done by Lieutenant Beatson, from a Hand-sketch of Captain Pringle's.

Captain Flint and Lieutenant Beatson act as my Aids de Camp on this service, which I hope will be agreeable to your Excellency.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) JAM^S STUART.

THE
Encampments
AND
ORDER of MARCH
of the ARMY under
Major General JAMES STUART,
from the 9th to the 14th of Feb. 1783.
NEAR VANDEWASH
with the Different Positions of the Enemy
to THEIR RETREAT across the Sy-aru River.
Drawn by
A. Beaufort Lieut.
and acting Aid de Camp.

Part of the Enemy's Horse

Village & Choultry

The Enemy's Picquet

Nedoongul

Tavtoory

Perroonagur

Road to Conjevaram

Trevatore

Arise on Sy-aru River

Reference.

- a b The Enemy's Camp as discovered from Vandewash Hill.
on the morning of the 9th
- c Position of the Enemy after having crossed the River, on
the morning of the 12th the French from Guddalore in
full force having joined the Mysoreans
- d e Parties of the Enemy's Horse.
- 1 Encampment of the Army 9th Feb^r
- 2 Cavalry
- 3 Picquet of the Army
- 4444 March of the Army towards the Enemy very early on the
13th Feb^r 1783.
- 5.6.7 The Army filing off to the left to form in Order of Battle
on the rising ground to the Westward of the Hills
- h.h.h The Enemy retreating towards the River. The party of
Cavalry d remained some time but was dispersed by
a few Shot from the right of the Line
- A Summit of Vandewash Hill from whence the General had
constant notice of the Enemy's movements
- 8.8.8 Encampment of the Army on its return to Vandewash.

APPENDIX, N° I.

From Major General STUART to his Excellency Lieutenant
General Sir EYRE COOTE, K. B. &c. &c.

Camp at Taumarum, Feb. 3, 1783.

I HAVE, for some considerable time past, sent, under cover to my friend Mr. Wheler, such intelligence as I thought might be interesting, doubtful whether you might not at the time be on your way here. Mr. Wheler would send whatever I had to say to your Excellency, and I beg leave to refer to it.

The appearance of *M. Suffrein* off Ganjam must have been known at Calcutta the 15th (ultimo), and consequently an embargo would take place;—this, I am sorry to think, will prevent your Excellency joining us *by sea*; but I shall hope and request you to come *by land*; and I am informed, without much inconvenience it may be done in *thirty days*.

The accounts intercepted in the *Chaser* will shew your Excellency what I believe is *Monf. De Buffy's* plan of descent *in or near the Circars*; but if your Excellency sets out immediately, I hope you will be with us before he can get landed.

Every thing is done that you could wish, to be prepared for him. Masulipatam and Ganjam are *alone* to be looked to. Jones and Lyfaght, as *first* and *second*, command in the Circars; and the guns and stores at Vizagapatam are to be divided betwixt those two places, and *your* two Carnatic batallions are, by *my plan*, ordered to Masulipatam.

In short, in this emergency, and to avoid mistakes, I thought myself called upon, at full length to give in a *Plan of Defence and Operations*, in a Minute or Memorial of the 26th ultimo; which, relative to the Circars, has been adopted. This paper I shall endeavour to furnish to your Excellency by some safe conveyance, so soon as I know for certain what you are pleased to determine upon, in your own movements.

In consequence of this plan, and the latest intelligence of the French designs, and after having supplied Tripasore with a sufficiency, *in deposit*, for a future convoy to Velore, I am now to move the Army towards Carangooly and Vandewash, *to demolish those places, and retire the garrisons*; and in doing this, I shall not be surpris'd, if *Tippoo, with his French General, tries our metal*;—we are prepared for it, under your auspices.

The Army marches to-morrow; though I have not yet been increased *five hundred* bullocks in carriage; yet, by the convoys sent to Chingleput, and three days to Carangooly, I hope to make it out; there is an infinity of carriage and draft bullocks, chosen by Captain Moorhouse's conductor, now on their way. I expect *eleven hundred* in a day or two.

I carry *six* battering guns and *one third* proportion of stores; the enemy's *utmost* force is within *three* days march, and *all* the French collected; *it is precisely what in the general line is to be wished for.*

By the following Note from Lieutenant Colonel Macleod *, you will
see

* From Lieutenant Colonel MACLEOD, commanding his Majesty's Troops on the MALABAR Coast, to Major General STUART, &c.

Panani, Dec. 27, 1782.

I HAVE now the honour to acquaint you, that *your wishes, with respect to the war on this Coast*, are likely to be fulfilled. B. General Matthews is arrived at Raja-mundroog, to the North of Onore, and has ordered me to join him. I sail with my whole
force

see that things are, as you would wish them; and *Lang* is entirely clear, and may, if he thinks fit, act in the offensive against *Caroor*.

I have been so *pointedly* attacked for my conduct, on the score of *inaction* or *counteraction*, by this President, in an elaborate Minute of the 18th ultimo; that though I can scarce find time to do myself *fully* justice, by reason of other more immediate employment, yet I have not *altogether* failed in that object, as I hope, in your Excellency's, and in the opinion of the Governor General and Council of Bengal, when they see *my answer*, presented to the Committee held the *first instant*.

I had the honour to forward to your Excellency two Letters last night, arrived by the *Greyhound* packet, in *sixteen* weeks from England;—I see many things in the General Letter, and which regard his Majesty's forces; but I do not think myself at liberty to take any steps, until I receive your orders.

Such is *my* situation in Government, that I am not looked upon as having a right to be summoned to the opening of a packet, *because it is directed to the President and Council of Fort St. George*; and, in fact, I was *not* summoned with the other Members of Government on that occasion. You see how I am treated; and, indeed, without remedy, as it would seem, &c.

(Signed) JAM^s STUART.

force to-morrow. I have *no* doubt of obliging the enemy to look at home. *Tippoo* left us in a great hurry, *on his father's death*, and is by this time at or near his camp in the Carnatic.

A P P E N D I X, N° II.

AT a Council of War.

Head Quarters, Camp at Carangooly, Feb. 6, 1783. Six P. M.

P R E S E N T,

Major General JAMES STUART, Commander in Chief on the Coast
of CHOROMANDEL,

Colonel REIMBOLD,

Colonel PEARCE,

Lieutenant Colonel STUART, of his Majesty's 78th,

Lieutenant Colonel GORDON, of his Majesty's 101st,

Lieutenant Colonel ELPHINSTONE, of his Majesty's 73d,

Major MACKAY, commanding the Artillery,

Lieutenant Colonel DAVIES, Quarter Master General, *deliberative* *,

Lieutenant BARRY CLOSE, Aid de Camp and Secretary to the Com-
mander in Chief, *acting as Secretary at this Meeting.*

Major General Stuart communicates as follows :

THE intercepted intelligence taken in the *Chaser*, leaves scarce a
doubt of the intentions of the French to land their next reinforce-
ment, under Monf. de Buffy, in the Circars, and with a view, most pro-
bably, to carry Masulipatam.

* The *Quarter Master* and *Adjutant General* in the Company's service (coast establish-
ment), are what *they* call *Nominal Lieutenant Colonels*, and not *properly* Field Officers.

It is also supposed that this is done on a plan concerted with the *late Hyder* and the *present Nizam*. In this belief, Government has provided suitably for the defence of Ganjam, as well as Masulipatam, and taken such other measures as the time will allow, in order to be prepared in the Circars.

In case the concerted plan is to act with *the whole* of the enemy's united force to the Northward, this Army must also move *in that direction* in as great force as possible. This is the great and principal object, now that the French and Dutch are arming so powerfully, with the most hostile intentions towards us.

In this view, it appears to me, that Hyder's son, *Tippoo Sabib*, and *all* the Native Powers in India, are but in the *second rank of enemies*; and the places at any distance from the Coast, whether in our hands or in theirs, are scarce worth our keeping garrisons *in* them, or driving the enemy *out* of them (*Vellore only excepted*), until we can thoroughly eradicate *our European foes* from places of strength or commerce, *now* held, or which *may be acquired* by them upon the *Coast*.

The Government having adopted the same system, I have, by their orders, moved the Army thus far, purposely to assist in the demolition, and to withdraw the garrisons from Vandewash and Carangooly; and I trust we shall so effectually demolish them, that they can be of little use to any enemy *during the present war*.

By the latest intelligence of the enemy's strength* and position, I find that they are encamped in the direction from near Arcot towards Arnee, and *may in three days be assembled*. Lallé's old corps is in ad

* The French force:

2000 Europeans,
300 Coffries,
25 Guns,
4 Howitzers,
2500 Sepoys in the French pay.

vance;

vance; the French, with all they can muster, are in their rear; *Curreem Sahib* and Meer Sahib's son next to them; and *Tippoo*, with the main body, is in the rear of the whole.

It has been reported to me, that several detachments from their Army, have been lately sent off;—two in particular; one to Cuddapa, under Hurree-Zing, the other towards Callicut or Mangalore; it marched about the 2d, but *it may be recalled* on the present movement of this Army.

In short, Gentlemen, I called you together, both in your quality and rank as the principal Officers, and as my friends and counsellors in this Army, to say to you, what was the *chief immediate* object on the present move; namely, *the demolition of these two places, and retiring the garrisons*; and at the same time to observe, that I expect to hear of some movement of the enemy's *whole* force on this occasion and in this direction, which *may* lead to an engagement with them. I was aware of this, and have formed my own opinion on it.

I brought six iron battering guns with two views; *one*, to cover our real intentions, and perhaps lead the French farther from a junction with *M. Buffy*, under apprehensions for Cuddalore; *the other*, to make use of them in action, having a provision with me of *one-third* military stores for a siege.

The rice *now* with us will admit of our remaining *three days* at Vandewash, *but not longer*; and in this time I trust the demolition will be finished. I shall, if nothing else offers, return to Carangooly, and demolish that place thoroughly.

Meanwhile, as to *myself*, I intend to leave almost *all* my baggage and servants within that place, except *one* tent and *soldiers provisions*, &c. for only *eight days*; and I hope, by your example, to bring all the rest of the Officers of the Army to do the same: the Sepoys wives, &c. and every thing not absolutely necessary, must be left. In this way we shall move *light and ready for action*; and by having this cover at Carangooly

rangooly for the purpose, it gives us every advantage which the enemy have *hitherto* had, with their places and magazines *in their rear*. There is plenty of every thing at Chingleput not yet touched upon.

But I am clear to say to you, that we have *no means* to advance farther than Vandewash, to engage the enemy, or to attempt taking any of their places, even if they were of real service; we have not the means, neither have we the time, because of other more immediate and more important services, *for which this main Army is needed*.

We must return by the way of Chingleput, and take our position within a march or two of the Presidency, from whence our movements must be regulated according to the intelligence of the day.

In case of any accident befalling me, which, as a soldier, I am myself prepared for, I am to request that the Officer *next* in command will keep in his mind what I have now stated, and will form his Council of the Gentlemen here present, *whose opinion on the following question I now wish to collect*:

“ Whether, during the prosecution of the orders of Government, and
 “ for the reasons already stated (namely, to demolish the works and
 “ retire the garrisons from Vandewash and Carangooly), in case the
 “ movements of the *joint* combined force of the enemy (Tippoo and
 “ the French), should indicate a design to give us battle, either after
 “ we have taken our ground at Vandewash, or in returning towards
 “ Carangooly;—whether, I say, circumstanced as already stated, *we*
 “ *ought not to engage even the whole force they can possibly assemble?*”

After deliberating; the question was put, beginning with Major Mackay, as the youngest in rank.

Answered.—Unanimously of opinion, that, considering the general complexion of public affairs, and the particular position and constitution of this

C

Army,

Army, no event could possibly occur, more to be wished for, than to have an occasion to engage the enemy's whole force before the reinforcements from Europe arrive.

(Signed) B. CLOSE, Aid-de-Camp and Secretary
to the Commander in Chief.

A P P E N D I X, N^o III.

VARIOUS CORRESPONDENCE previous to the dismantling of VANDEWASH and CARANGOOLY. February 1783.

From Major General STUART to his Excellency Lieutenant
General Sir EYRE COOTE, K. B. &c. &c. &c.

S I R,

Fort St. George, Jan. 1, 1783.

I HAVE just time to send you (inclosed*) the latest intelligence from Captain Flint; I have had other Notes from him of preparations; and *signals* are to be made from Vandewash-hill, to be seen from Carangooly and Chingleput *the instant the French approach.*

The whole Army will be encamped to-morrow. I shall meanwhile send another convoy to Chingleput, and embrace every opportunity of sending rice onwards, until there is a necessity to march, and we have more carriage † to do business at Arnee *effectually*, or until we are happy enough to see your Excellency by the return of the Medea frigate. We have Letters here of the 14th ult. which assure us of this being your intention; but *I* have none later than the 1st ult.; and to say truth, I

* See, in the Notes to the Correspondence with Sir Eyre Coote, The intelligence about this period, not now inserted in this Appendix.

J. S. 1784.

† See the Return of the Army Carriage, page 29.

J. S. 1784.

have not had an hour to myself to answer it; but your Excellency may be assured that nothing of what you recommend shall be forgotten.

With all this parade of Treasury, the Army is this day *six* months in arrear of pay and batta; the black troops *five*: *but there is no murmur or discontent*. And I am assured we shall have a month's pay in a day or two; and every thing else is as *you* would wish it. Many, many happy years to you, is the sincere prayer of your Excellency's

Most devoted and

Most obliged humble Servant,

(Signed) JAM^s STUART.

P. S. Hyder is beyond doubt gone *to his own place*; and the guns, *on the arrival of Tippoo*, have been heard all around.

(Signed) J. S.

From Captain FLINT, commanding at *Vandewasb*, to
Major General STUART.

(In Cypher.)

Vandewasb, Jan. 1, 1783.

I HAVE the honour to send inclosed a state of the troops and grain in garrison, with an account of what grain has been consumed in the last *sixteen* days.

The two Armies remain in the same situation as mentioned in my Letter of the 29th December. The French are making a great number
of

of entrenching tools from two country guns. It is imagined they will not move from their present encampment till the return of the gentlemen who went to visit *Tippoo Saib*.

From Major General STUART to Lieutenant General Sir
EYRE COOTE, &c. &c.

Fort St. George, Jan. 2, 1782.

THE only Letter which I have seen for these three weeks past from your Board, is that of the *12th December*, where you desire to have an explanation about the intrigues with Fazel Beg's son, and to have communication *weekly* of the proceedings of this Committee, and also of *our plan of operations next campaign*. This last, so far as was *prudent or proper*, I had already given to them.

I now send you the latest intelligence from Vandewash and Captain Cuppage. That from Vandewash yesterday, was by mistake here said of the 27th, whereas it was the 29th December. I see or hear of *no lights*, therefore suppose they (*the French and Tippoo*) have thought better of it, and believe they will still find reason to weigh matters, when they hear of this Army encamped, as it was before Ten this forenoon, *in full force*.

I have been so busy in all this affair, and in answering some *tedious Minutes* of the Right Honourable President, that I have scarce time or spirits to subscribe myself, as in duty, &c.

(Signed)

JAM^s STUART.

From

From Captain CRAWFORD, commanding at *Carangooly*,
to Major General STUART.

(In Cypher.)

Carangooly, Jan. 9, 1783.

THE French marched to Chittapett yesterday, on their way, it is said, to join *Tippoo*. Within these two days there has been a number of horse about Vandewash, which I hear has drove off most of the cattle belonging to that place.

From Captain SCOULER, commanding at *Tripasore*, to
Major General STUART.

Tripasore, Jan. 10, 1783.

ON the 6th instant, in the evening, *Tippoo Sabib*, with his Army, was encamped near a place called Chucklemalore, about seven miles from Arcot, and was then employed in forming a detachment at a little distance from his encampment, to go against Vandewash, to besiege it. This was the common discourse of his Army.

As soon as he arrived, and joined his father's Army under *Curreem-Sabib*, he paid off the whole arrears that were due, and gave the strongest assurances of their receiving in future, a regular monthly payment, which, with his presence, has given them great confidence. Not a word of peace with the English is now talked of by his troops, neither do they mention his being wounded.

He has lately received from the Maifore country near 2000 good horses for his cavalry, and it is said has sent 4000 horse to play round

our

our encampment. It is reported in his lines, that he brought several English Officers prisoners with him from the Callicutt country, and that an English fleet had arrived at Mangalore, with intent to besiege it. I don't hear of *any disputes between the brothers* *. There are a good many horse moving about between Pondamlie and Tripasore.

From Major General STUART to Captain CRAWFORD,
commanding at *Carangooly*.

(In Cypher.)

Camp at the Mount, Jan. 11, 1783.

I HAVE received your Letter of the 5th. You have my best thanks for your *meat-supplies*, though I don't yet hear of their arrival. Continue your efforts in this way. I wrote to Flint, that our Army makes a move to-morrow or next day, so that we shall be up with the *French and Tippoo* before they can effect any very material object.

Pray keep a good look-out, and give us the earliest notice of every thing that passes. I have written to Patterfon (Chingleput) to assist you in the rice way, all he can.

I have a Letter from Lieutenant Colonel Macleod, with the particulars of a very good drubbing he gave to Tippoo and Lallé jointly at Panani, 27th November 1782. *Some folks* doubt even yet if *Tippoo* is *really* arrived at Culwah Camp.

P. S. You will acquaint me, by the return of the Harkarahs, in cypher, and in as few words as you can, *what were Sir Eyre Coote's orders to you*, in case your place should be attacked?

* *Tippoo Sabib and Curreem Sabib.*

From Captain CUPPAGE, Commanding at *Vellore*, to
Major General STUART.

(In Cypher.)

Vellore, Jan. 12, 1783.

TIPPOO's camp remains to the eastward of Arcot, and I have accounts to-day that his Army, which was on the Malabar coast, joined his camp at Chucklemalore two days ago.

From Captain CRAWFORD, commanding at *Carangooly*,
to Major General STUART.

(In Cypher.)

Carangooly, Jan. 15, 1783.

I HAVE been honoured with yours of the 11th. The orders I had from Sir Eyre Coote, relative to this place, was dated the 16th June, desiring me "to send off all the stores to Chingleput; to obtain the best intelligence possible of the enemy; and, if their movements gave me reason to apprehend danger, to spring the mines, burn the gates, and disable the guns on the works, and retreat with the two field pieces by the shortest way to Chingleput with the stores." I sent two guns, a fourteen and a three pounder, which were on a sort of travelling carriages; so there only now remains three guns, on very bad carriages, and the two field pieces, with two tumbrils, which contain their ammunition.

When the Army passed last to the southward, I received a Letter from Lieutenant Wickens of the Engineers, by order of the General, desiring me to *draw the mines*, and to send to Chingleput for twenty barrels of powder, to have in readiness to load them again *if thought necessary*.

necessary. I beg leave to observe to you, that with the people here, it requires near *ten* days to load them; and should the enemy have any design against this place, and I be fortunate enough to discover them, it would be impossible to execute that part of the General's orders. I have now replaced the rice belonging to the Army, that I used during the Monsoon; the next turn must be for ourselves, and then I will continue to bring more for the Army.

From Captain FLINT, commanding at *Vandewasb*, to
Major General STUART.

(In Cypher.)

Vandewasb, Jan. 15, 1783.

I MENTIONED, in my Letter of the 13th instant, that the Officer that day on the Hill had reported the French camp to have made a short march towards Viapundal. He was deceived by the weather; the two Armies continue within seven miles of Arcott. Yesterday eleven battering cannon and five hundred infantry, came from *Tippoo's* camp to Arnee. Several hundred horse are stationed at the enemy's posts in the neighbourhood of this place, within these six days.

From Major General STUART to Captain CRAWFORD,
commanding at *Carangooly*.

(In Cypher.)

Camp near Velloutte, Jan. 20, 1783.

I RECEIVED, in course, your Letter of the 15th, and understand the contents; though I don't believe the enemy will come within my reach for the present; yet I wish you *quietly to set about loading the*
D *mine,*

mine, with every attention to keeping *the powder dry*, and to prevent its spoiling, in case hereafter we may think necessary to draw it. I wrote to know Sir Eyre Coote's last orders to Captain Flint, in same manner as to you; but I know the fellow dropt the Letter, and it has been carried to *Tippoo*: I have sent a duplicate now; and you will likewise write to him *in cypher* to the same effect: see also if you and he can concert together to throw some rice into Vandewash, by little and little, in the night.

From Major General STUART to Captain FLINT, commanding at *Vandewash*.

(In Cypher.)

Camp near Velloutte, Jan. 22, 1783.

THIS serves to inform you that the Medea frigate has retaken our *old ship the Chaser*, and brought her into Madras roads. The French dispatches taken in her are of the utmost importance; no less than their grand plan of operations, on the immediate expectation of M. Buffy landing at Mafulipatam.

Our Army is in the best disposition, all circumstances considered; but as it may be necessary to *concenter the whole of our force*, I write you this to prepare every thing with the utmost expedition, so as effectually to destroy the place (*Vandewash*), *in case you should receive orders for that purpose*, and to preserve such of the artillery only as you can bring with you.

I mean to say, that you should be actually preparing mines, and taking every other step, so that the powder applied to the mines, and the fire to the gates and barriers and pallisades, may take effect in one hour's

hour's time; also the destruction of the artillery, that are not worth bringing away.

The next movement of the Army will be towards Chingleput, so as to cover your garrison, in case of necessity.

The French fleet is off Ganjam; there are no transports with them now, but M. Buffy, with three frigates and thirty transports, is hourly expected to the northward.

I have sent a duplicate of this to Captain Crawford, with similar directions for his garrison and place (Carangooly). Nothing is to be destroyed till further orders, only every thing ready for it.

Send me, as usual, the first and quickest intelligence of *Tippoo and the French*. I have promised this Harkarah three Pagodas, if he delivers this in three days.

From Captain FLINT, commanding at *Vandewasb*, to
Major General STUART.

(In Cypher.)

Vandewasb, Jan. 22, 1783.

INFORMATION was brought me this morning, That *Tippoo and the French* were yesterday ready to march to *Punapawke*, with an intention to engage the English Army. From the hill, this morning, their camp appears near the above-mentioned place. Sir Eyre Coote's last orders to me, were, *to do every thing in my power for the defence of Vandewasb*.

From Captain FLINT, commanding at *Vandewasb*, to
Major General STUART.

(In Cypher.)

Vandewasb, Jan. 25, 1783.

MY Harkarahs from Chittepett inform me that *Ardassapah*, with 3. or 4000 troops, came from the southward, and was at Chittepett the day before yesterday. He had eleven guns with him, and is going to join *Tippoo*. I understand 5000 horse likewise joined three days ago, from his own country, and more expected: it is said he is collecting all his force for some grand effort.

You will understand, by the accompanying Letter, that the French are drawing all they can from Cuddalore*; it is the only Letter of two Tappals we intercepted, that contained any news. I mentioned in my Letter in duplicate, that Sir Eyre Coote gave orders *that every thing was to be done for the defence of Vandewasb*.

From Captain HEARSEY, Military Grain-Keeper to
Major General STUART, &c.

S I R,

Camp at Tammarum, Jan. 28, 1783.

INCLOSED, I beg leave to present a return of carriage attached to the camp granary, and all other *possible* means of carrying rice for the troops. I am,

S I R,

Your very obedient humble Servant,

(Signed) A. W. HEARSEY, Capt.
Military Grain-Keeper.

* See this Letter in the Collection.

CARRIAGE *at most* with the ARMY for RICE.

Camp, Jan. 28, 1783.

	N ^o of Bags.
1270 carriage bullocks attached to the granary, 200 of them	
sick, - - - - -	900
38 double, and 52 single carts, ditto, ditto, - - -	384
Guns and tumbrels, - - - - -	242
Total, little more than seven days rice for the troops,	1526

(Signed) A. W. HEARSEY, Capt.
Military Grain-Keeper.

N. B. Captain Moorehouse cannot ascertain what carriage he can spare from his department, till he gets the stores in camp for the battering train.

The preceding return evinces the distress, for want of carriage (even after the army bullocks, &c. had returned from Nellore), and consequent impossibility of the Army undertaking any expedition at a distance from the Presidency at this period.

(Signed) J. S. 1784.

From Captain FLINT to Major General STUART, &c.

Vandewash, Jan. 28, 1783.

YOUR Letters of the 20th and 22d instant did not reach me before yesterday. In consequence of the *latter*, all the people I have been able to collect, have been employed in mining the place. We are entirely without limbers and draught bullocks, which will prevent our carrying

ing away the guns here, viz. one 32, one 24, one 12, and five nines; the rest are either honeycomb'd, or otherways damaged.

My Harkarahs inform me, that 200 Frenchmen, 200 Caffries, 300 Sepoys, and 50 horse, came yesterday to Permacoil; they have with them 5 guns, 2 mortars, and 100 Bandies with stores. It is reported *with them*, that they are to attack Vellore, after joining Tippoo. Most parties going to camp pass by Gingee and Chittepett. This party is to halt a day or two at Permacoil.

From Captain FLINT, commanding at *Vandewasb*, to
Major General STUART.

(In Cypher.)

Vandewasb, Feb. 1, 1783.

I HAVE the honour of sending herewith the usual returns. My Harkarahs inform me, the enemy continue between *Poneparwk* and *Perengy*. They still talk of the French, assisted by 6000 horse (said to be Marattoes that lately joined, and encamp separately) and a good number of Tippoo's infantry, being daily expected to come here. The Amildar of Trivatore has received orders to provide for them when they come. Notwithstanding this is so universally believed, for two or three days, Curreem and Lallé, with 12,000 men, and Meer Saib with 8000 horse, have been *mentioned* as ready, the former to go towards Callicutt, and the latter to the Cudapah countries. A few Europeans, and about 500 firelock Carnatic-men, passed Chittepett yesterday, with seven guns, for camp.

From Captain FLINT, commanding at *Vandewasb*, to
Major General STUART.

Vandewasb, Feb. 1, 1783; Eleven at night.

SINCE writing; one of my Harkarahs has come in, who informs me, that Curreem Saib (who has the camp that *Tippoo* formerly had), and the French, came this morning to *Iamcollam*; they have with them some battering cannon, and are said to be coming *here*. He likewise tells me, that 6000 horse and 4000 infantry went to Arnee, and are going to Callicutt; and that 8000 troops, under Hurree Zing, went three days ago towards Cudapah:—200 Europeans, with stores and two battering guns, are at Colway. *Tippoo* continues on the old ground.

From Captain SCOULER, commanding at *Tripasore*, to
Major General STUART.

Tripasore, Feb. 1, 1783.

THERE is still a force at Tritani and Shulangur. *Tippoo Saib* has sent two battalions and a thousand of his best Peons to Cudalore a few days ago. *The talk* in his camp is, that *Nyzam Ally's* son is expected to join him shortly; they likewise expect large reinforcements from Mayfore shortly. The French force is still a distinct camp, but is now within less than a quarter of a mile of *Tippoo's* lines. It is imagined there, that *you* will shortly march to Vellore with provisions; and they say that *Tippoo* is determined to put every thing at stake to prevent your success: *they* are of opinion that he will not face our Army, as he has already sent away every thing valuable. The regulars are constantly exercising with musketry and field-pieces. Another of
4 your

your Letters for Captain Cuppage is lost; one of the Harkarahs was killed, and the other badly wounded. I have since sent others, and hope they will carry this one safely.

From Captain SCOULER, commanding at *Tripasore*, to
Major General STUART.

Tripasore, Feb. 3, 1783.

E X T R A C T.

THEY have it in *Tippoo's* camp (who, with his whole force and the French, are encamped nearly between Covrepawk and Conjeveram), that 25 French ships*, with abundance of troops, are arrived at Negapatam, or rather Nagore, for which a salute was fired; and the spirits of his whole Army are now raised to a great height, and nothing less than an absolute destruction is talked of. *Tippoo* will march shortly, *they think*, to effect a junction, and will then return with them to besiege Fort St. George.

Major General STUART to Captain FLINT, commanding
at *Vandewasb.*

(In Cypher.)

Camp South of Palar, Feb. 5, 1783.

I HALT at Carangooly Friday the 7th, and move towards you the 8th, to put the last hand to a certain work; but I trust to you for the most exact and speedy intelligence of the enemy's movements from

* This news must have been spread in *Tippoo's* camp from the knowledge of the French squadron being *then* to the Northward.

J. S. 1784.

the

the Hill and Harkarahs. I shall leave all the baggage at Carangooly, and move towards you, *light*, with only rice, beef, and *spirits sufficient in every way*.

The camp will be on the other side of your place, with the rear of the right close to the hill, where there is forage. We encamped there once before. Pray send to see how the forage is. Collect all the cattle you can. The inhabitants and gunners, with their families and property, shall be secured on their return to Carangooly. Pray think of the previous measures needed, but *don't let any thing be published till we pitch our tents near you*.

Major General STUART to Colonel LANG, or Officer commanding to the Southward.

D U P L I C A T E *.

Camp at Carangooly, Feb. 7, 1783.

WE are on the march to Vandewash, to blow up the place, and to *dare* the enemy, with *all* their Europe force. Whatever you have to do in the offensive way, this is your time. The French fleet passed to the Southward the 4th.

(Signed) JAM^s. STUART.

* The Harkarah with the *first* copy of this Letter, fell into *Tippoo's* hands:—it was *not* in cypher. I heard of it afterwards, and was not sorry for the accident.

J. S. 1784.

From Captain CRAWFORD, commanding at *Carangooly*,
to Major General STUART.

(Part in Cypher.)

Carangooly, Feb. 9, 1783.

TWO men, who came in last night from Cuddalore, inform me they saw 15 ships between that place and Pondicherry, and that they think they went past. I have sent them with this, should you chuse to ask them any questions. I am sorry to inform you, that I am afraid you will not find the mines so ready on your return as you expect.

From Major General STUART to Captain CRAWFORD,
commanding at *Carangooly*.

(In Cypher.)

Vandewasb, Feb. 12, 1783; at Noon.

I WROTE to you last night to be on the look-out from the Hill and towards Outramalore, there being a suspicion of the enemy's intending to get between us and you *on that side*; therefore *guard against surprise*, and station your people properly within the walls, with all your Europeans that can stand to their arms, and send me the earliest intelligence of every thing.

*

